

IN THE CLAIMS:

Substitute the following claims for the pending claims having the same numbers.

1. (currently amended) A cable duct device, comprising:

a swellable packer ~~of the kind in which the packer is~~ adapted for sealing an annulus, the packer including a seal material which swells and thereby increases in volume in response to contact with a swell-activating material;

at least one through-going opening positioned between an inner surface and an outer surface of the packer and adapted to constitute a duct for a cable or pipe; and

a slit extending between the through-going opening and only one of the outer surface of the packer and the inner surface of the packer prior to actuation of the packer.

2. (previously presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein the through-going opening encloses the cable both prior to and after swelling has occurred in the swellable packer.

3. (previously presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein the through-going opening has a variable longitudinal extension.

4. (previously presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein the through-going opening has a variable cross-section.

5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) A cable duct device, comprising:

a packer adapted for sealing an annulus;

at least one through-going opening positioned between an inner surface and an outer surface of the packer and adapted to constitute a duct for a cable or pipe; and

a slit extending between the through-going opening and the outer surface of the packer prior to actuation of the packer,

wherein the inner surface of the packer is circumferentially continuous prior to actuation of the packer.

7. (previously presented) The device of claim 6, wherein the packer seals about a cable positioned in the through-going opening when the packer is actuated.

8. (previously presented) The device of claim 6, wherein the packer extends lengthwise in a longitudinal direction, wherein the through-going opening extends longitudinally through the packer, and wherein a cable extends longitudinally through the through-going opening.

9. (canceled)

10. (previously presented) The device of claim 6, wherein a cable is inserted through the slit and positioned in the through-going opening.

11. (currently amended) A method of extending a cable longitudinally through a packer, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a swellable packer including a seal material having an opening extending longitudinally through the seal material and positioned between an inner surface and an outer surface of the packer, and a longitudinal slit extending between the opening and only one of the outer surface of the packer and the inner surface of the packer prior to actuation of the packer;

inserting the cable into the opening through the slit; and

then swelling the seal material by contacting the seal material with a swell-activating material, thereby causing the seal material to seal about the cable in the opening.

12. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the swell-activating material comprises water.

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the swell-activating material comprises hydrocarbons.

14. (previously presented) The device of claim 6, wherein the packer comprises a swellable packer including a seal material which swells and thereby increases in volume in response to contact with a swell-activating material.